

## REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

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Claims 1-2, 4 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,629,485 (Berkey). In view of the Examiner's remarks, claim 1 is amended as to the step of "accumulating glass particles on a starting rod to form a porous glass soot free from germanium in an entire process of manufacturing the glass base material".

In the last paragraph of *Response to Arguments* in the pending office action, the Examiner states: "The claim is comprising in nature and is open to having other soot which isn't germanium free". It is believed that our claim modification addresses the Examiner's concern.

The claim change also addresses the Examiner's concern that: "The claim does not preclude all germanium from all portions of the preform".

As to the Examiner's assertion: "Using a dopant such as GeO<sub>2</sub> is derived to mean that one can use other dopants, besides GeO<sub>2</sub>", Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Even if Berkey teaches using a dopant such as GeO<sub>2</sub>, it fails to teach or suggest the step (amended herein) of accumulating glass particles.

The introductory portion of the originally filed specification, as an example, talks about the drawback regarding the use of germanium as follows: "*if using the germanium doped GI type optical fiber for a high power YAG laser, the strength of the optical fiber can deteriorate.*" Our claimed inventions (including claim 1) provide a solution to this problem. In contrast, Berkey teaches use of fluorine together with the germanium. It fails to identify the drawback associated with the use of germanium. Thus, Berkey **does not teach** precluding all germanium from all portions of the preform.

For the above reasons, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider the proposed amendment and also to withdraw the pending rejections.

All of the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Berkey are also respectfully traversed because of the insufficient teachings of Berkey, as described above.

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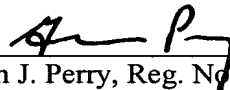
If any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 are due in connection with this filing, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 02-4300; Order No. 034103.005.

If an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is necessary that is not accounted for in the papers filed herewith, such an extension is requested. The extension fee should be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-4300; Order No. 034103.005.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: September 2, 2004  
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